

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03615 291439Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 H-01 SSO-00 SCS-06
/031 W

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O R 291355Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8484
INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: CDES LE (WILSON, PAUL CARY)
SUBJ: DEATH OF PAUL CARY WILSON

REF: (A) STATE 164653, (B) STATE 163510, (C) BEIRUT 3113

1. REF B STATES LT. WILSON WAS TOLD BY POLICE THAT NO INVESTIGATION DONE PRIOR HIS ARRIVAL BECAUSE NO FORMAL COMPLAINT HAD BEEN FILED. POST BELIEVES THERE APPARENT MISUNDERSTANDING ON PART OF LT. WILSON. BELIEVE POLICE REFERRING TO EXAMINATION OF BODY, I.E., AUTOPSY. SINCE THERE WAS DOUBT AS TO RELATIONSHIP, NOTHING WAS DONE TO BODY PRIOR TO LT. WILSON'S ARRIVAL PENDING POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION EXCEPT FOR EXAMINATION BY MEDICAL OFFICER ON DAY OF MURDER TO DETERMINE CAUSE OF DEATH.

2. CONOFF DISCUSSED CASE WITH POLICE CHIEF OF ARAYA GENDARME STATION IMMEDIATELY AFTER VIEWING BODY IN JAMHOUR (WHERE BODY FOUND). AT THAT TIME, THE IDENTIFICATION CARDS BELONGING TO PAUL WILSON AND THE SPENT CASING OF THE BULLET HAD ALREADY BEEN TURNED OVER TO MAURICE MASSAAD, DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR INVESTIGATION. THEREFORE, EMBASSY CONCLUDES THAT INVESTIGATION BEGAN ON DAY OF MURDER AND WAS NOT HELD UP BECAUSE OF LACK OF FORMAL COMPLAINT.

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03615 291439Z

3. IN THEIR MEETING ON JUNE 23, 1978, AMBASSADOR PARKER RAISED SUBJECT OF WILSON MURDER WITH FOUAD BOUTROS, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHO SAID HE WOULD CHECK INTO CASE AND WOULD LATER BE IN TOUCH WITH THE AMBASSADOR. BOUTROS HAS BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH CURRENT CABINET CRISES, HOWEVER, AND HAS NOT YET CALLED AMBASSADOR.

4. CONSULAR OFFICER RUSSELL HAS MADE REPEATED ATTEMPTS DURING PAST FEW DAYS TO CONTACT GOL OFFICIALS WORKING ON THE CASE; WE UNDERSTAND A REPORT IS BEING PREPARED JUNE 29 FOR MAURICE MASSAAD, DISTRICT ATTORNEY, WHO IS CURRENTLY HANDLING WILSON CASE AND CONOFF PLANS VISIT MASSAAD JUNE 30 IN ATTEMPT OBTAIN MOST RECENT RESULTS, IF ANY, OF CONTINUING INVESTIGATION AND TO PASS HIM INFO IN REF. A.

5. CAPTAIN THEODORE MAKKARI WHO WAS ORIGINALLY HANDLING THE WILSON CASE IS NOW AND HAS BEEN IN ZGHORTA SINCE THE FRANGIEH INCIDENT. THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE CASE AT THE PRESENT TIME IN MAKKARI'S ABSENCE IS ADJUDANT YOUSSEF ABDEL SATER. ABDEL SATER REPORTS THAT THERE IS NOTHING NEW IN THE CASE; THE ONLY THING THEY KNOW IS THAT WILSON LEFT THE SHIP WITH A BICYCLE ABOUT 9:15 A.M. AND WAS FOUND KILLED AT ABOUT 11:00 A.M. HE HAS THE MANIFEST OF THE SS SOLPHRYNE WITH THE NAMES OF THE TWELVE PASSENGERS. HOWEVER, THE ADDRESSES GIVEN ARE INCOMPLETE AND POLICE UNABLE TO LOCATE ANYONE OF THEM TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATION. ABDEL SATER HAS ASKED THAT EMBASSY FURNISH HIM WITH MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WILSON'S ACQUAINTANCES BEFORE ARRIVING IN LEBANON, SPECIALLY IN NICOSIA. AS NOTED ABOVE, CONOFF WILL BE FURNISHING WHAT WE HAVE.

6. PLEASE ASSURE MR. WILSON WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO INVESTIGATE THIS CASE BUT SECURITY SITUATION IN LEBANON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03615 291439Z

TODAY MAKES IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR US TO GET KEY OFFICIALS TO FOCUS ON IT.

DECONTROL 7/1/78.
PARKER

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